

13.3 Working with Visual Display Units

The EU Council Directive 901270/EEC provides an obligation on employers to provide for appropriate eye and eyesight tests for those working with visual display units (V.D.U.s):

- Before commencing display screen work
- At regular intervals thereafter, and
- If they experience visual difficulties which may be due to display screen work

Teagasc staff working with V.D.U.s. are entitled to an eyesight test every two years, to be paid for by Teagasc (where this is not covered by PRSI). There is a limit of €50 on this refund and staff members should ensure they seek the best value for money in this regard. In addition, if a staff member requires special corrective appliances as a result of working with a V.D.U, Teagasc will make a contribution towards the cost of the appliance provided the corrective appliances are required specifically to operate a VDU unit and for no other purpose.

In order to claim a refund for the cost of the eyesight test, the staff member must submit a receipt to their local office/centre.

If a staff member wishes to claim a contribution towards the cost of a special corrective appliance/lenses as a result of working with a V.D.U, they must ensure that they have supporting documentation from the optometrist which states the purpose of the special corrective appliances/lenses and the cost of same.

The contribution made by Teagasc towards the cost of these is as follows:

- €69* towards the cost of ordinary lenses
- €115* towards the cost of bi-focals

*These rates are current as at October 2008, however they may be subject to change. Please contact HR for the most up to date rate.

How to claim eye test refund or a contribution towards lenses

- To claim a refund for the cost of an eye test, simply submit the receipt to your local staff officer or administrative officer who will reimburse you (provided you have not been covered by PRSI for the cost of the eye test).
- To claim a contribution towards lenses, you should submit supporting documentation from the optometrist to your local staff officer or administrative officer, which states the purpose of the lenses (i.e. required for VDU purposes), the type of lenses and the total paid for them.
- If you are a **Head Office** Staff member you can submit the relevant receipts/documentation to the HR Department who will reimburse you

Version	Revision Date	Summary of Changes	Policy Owner
1.0		n/a	Corporate Services